

G.A.T.E.WAYS POLICY ON PARENT ATTENDANCE

For the last 25 years G.A.T.E.WAYS has run extensive programming for gifted children across the curriculum. These programs operate for varying lengths of time from a single day up to regular, ongoing sessions for a semester/year.

In the main students attend sessions following a teacher nomination. Teachers nominate children on the basis of their abilities and their need for challenge and extension which is subject-based or generalised. G.A.T.E.WAYS has gained a reputation for the provision of excellent programming and it is on that basis that teachers feel confident in recommending the programs for appropriately selected children. Parents can then choose to allow their child to be nominated or not.

G.A.T.E.WAYS is sometimes asked by parents if they might be allowed to accompany their child to the program room:

- 1. To settle them. On occasions a child may be a little overwhelmed at the start of the day and therefore a bit unsure. Parents may also be a bit anxious.**

It is G.A.T.E.WAYS policy that parents do not accompany their children to the classroom or sit in with them:

- We know that children settle much more quickly once their parents have gone. Children often pick up on their parents' concerns.
- Our supervisors and presenters have a number of strategies in place to assist a child to settle
 - Pairing them up with a friendly host school student to look after them
 - Doing a warmup or get-to-know-you activity where children are encouraged to meet others
 - Getting down to work quickly – once everything starts children become engaged and forget about their fears

It is very difficult for a child if the parent is in the room. They tend to cling to the parent, rather than quickly overcome their nerves. Having a parent in the room can also be a distraction for other children and the presenter

- The fact that a parent is in the room without a Working With Children Certificate is also something that G.A.T.E.WAYS could be challenged on.

If a parent is particularly concerned, we can:

- Offer a cup of coffee in the staffroom. A G.A.T.E.WAYS supervisor will check on the child 15-20 minutes into the program to ensure that he/she is settled. Then the parent can head off.
- If there is a concern about a child during the day, a G.A.T.E.WAYS supervisor will contact the parent for advice or to pass on information.

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2. To observe the program or the presenter

It is G.A.T.E.WAYS policy that parents do not accompany their children to the classroom to observe the program

- Another adult's presence in the room can be a distraction for the children and the presenter
- The programs are usually very busy and fast-paced – the presenter needs to fully focus on the class

If parents are interested in finding out more about the program or getting some feedback they can:

- Talk to the presenter at the end of the day/session
- Get feedback from their child about the day/session – children are usually very forthcoming and excited about what they have done. The fact that they have been highly engaged is an indication that the program is a good 'fit' for them.
- In the case of a Eureka program the children bring home a small record book as a conversation starter. Parents find this a very useful resource to gain an understanding of the content of the sessions
- In the case of a Journeys program (a 4-session program) parents receive a report at the conclusion of the program